



PHOTOGRAPHY/RAVELL CALL

Dan R. Bagley displays empty colony that normally would be swarming with bees.

Utah beekeepers being stung by mysterious loss of bees

By Kirk Mitchell
Deseret News correspondent

OREM — Beekeepers in the Beehive State are beginning to feel the sting of a perplexing phenomenon that has reduced the state's supply of bees.

In the past three years, most Utah beekeepers have lost more than 50 percent of their bees, Utah County bee inspector Joel Wright said. At the same time, they are having to compete with a cheap foreign market that has slashed the wholesale price of honey by 20 percent.

Ed Bianco, state bee inspector, has seen the problem as well, but he estimates average losses at 25 to 30 percent. Larger beekeepers seem to have lost more than the smaller operations that are more or less a hobby, Bianco said.

For the 50 years Dan Bagley of Springville has been working with bees, he said, he has never seen anything similar to what has happened in the past

come up with answers, but no one knows for sure, Bagley said.

"Some beekeepers think it's the weather, but we've had worse conditions before and the bees haven't done so bad. Others blame it on pollution, fog and disease. We've seen it all before and the bees have survived."

Bagley predicted the bees' poor showing through the winter after inspecting his hives last summer. "They were listless. Instead of collecting honey as they had done for as long as I can remember, they just didn't do anything."

Bagley is retired from the beekeeping business now but worries about his son, a fifth-generation beekeeper. Bagley said he wonders if there is a future for him.

Dan R. Bagley, Mapleton, picked up a night job this year to compensate for the loss of bees.

Dan Bagley said he helped a friend into the business this year, but all of the bees, the 50 hives he

warn students not to take

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Corey Burton, left, and Todd Henrie tell students how they became confined to

reject ne d men

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ith similar situations in

have been living at a site
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n have been living on the
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eir 30s and 40s. "All have
taxes," said Brown.

e meeting, neighbors of
ne in Orem told the gath-
ad no problems with any
nts — but their experi-
ot sway the crowd.

ill be 2 p.m. Friday in the
ry Drawing Room Cha-
nter, Provo. Friends may
ortuary one hour before
burial will be in the Provo
ry.

Snow Hill

— Wayne Snow Hill, 72,
1986, in Moroni. He was
1, 1914, in Thistle, Utah
n of Jefferson Hill and
da Snow. He married
chenson, in Elko, Nev.
vorded.

BYU professor will describe chemicals' effects

PROVO — Gary Booth, a Brigham Young University zoology professor, will describe the effects of environmental chemicals on the body in a speech Thursday at 7 p.m. in 446 Martin Building on campus.

Research shows that certain chemicals in the environment cause cancer in animals, such as fish. Humans could consume many of these suspected

carcinogens/mutagens the
Booth said.

The lecture will also pr
as cholesterol produced in
lesions, damage and heart

Co-author of a new boo
Lifestyle," Booth has pub
search articles in scientific
ics relating to environmen

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